[MR CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Capacity enhancement of Power Projects

† * 141. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased state:

(a) whether various States of the country are facing acute shortage of power;

(b) whether the capacity of some projects has not been enhanced for the last several years, and a number of projects are still awaiting necessary approval, as a result of which industrial and agricultural production in most of the States is on the decline; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to enhance power generation in the country;

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There is an over-shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from day to day and hour to hour depending on the demand and supply of power. The energy and peak shortage the country during the period April to October, 2007 was 7.3% and 14.6% respectively.

(b) The enhancement in capacity of power generation projects is a a continuous proces and is achieved through addition of new generating capacity as well as Renovation Modernization and Uprating of old plants whose capacity declines with age. During to 10th Five Year Plan (2002 to 2007), a generation capacity of 21,180 MW was added in to country against a target of 41,110 MW. Notwithstanding the shortfall in capacity addition there was an increase in the annual growth of generation of electricity in the country during the 10th Five Year Plan from 3.1% in the terminal year of the 9th Five Year Plan (2001 -02) to 7.3% during the terminal year of the 10th Five Year Plan (2006-0 7).

Under the Electricity Act 2003, any generating company may establish, operate ant maintain a generating station without obtaining a licence, if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid specified by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The concurrence of CEA is required only for setting up hydro electric generation schemes involving capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time.

Thirty-six (36) hydro-electric schemes aggregating 15,013 MW of installed capacity have been concurred by CEA since 2002, out of which, twenty-one (21) hydro-electric projects totaling 9,639 MW of installed capacity have been taken up for construction. The balance fifteen (15) power projects aggregating 5,374 MW are in the process of obtaining environment & forest clearance, investment approval, placement of award, etc.

Further, four (4) hydro-electric projects totaling 3,999 MW installed capacity are under examination in CEA.

(d) The following steps have been taken/are being taken to improve overall availability of power in the country:

(i) Augmentation of generating capacity by over 78.5000 MW is proposed in the 11th Plan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding.

(iii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

(iv) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units.

(v) Harnessing surplus captive power into the grid.

(vi) Strengthening/augmentation of sub-transmission systems in States under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major steps towards reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) Losses.

(vii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

(viii) Strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.

(ix) Promoting demand side management, energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

(x) Monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal to review and resolve the constraints.

(xi) Monitoring of production, transportation and supply of coal to review and resolve constraints.

(xii) Import of power from Bhutan.

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Programme

*142. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Programme;

(b) to what extent INSPIRE helps in producing more and more science students and stopping exodus of scientists from Indian scientific institutions;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there has been a fall in the rate of Ph.D. students in the country over the last few years; and

(d) if so, to what extent INSPIRE helps students to take up research?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Government of India has mounted a special scholarship scheme titled "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" to attract talented youth to study and careers with science. INSPIRE aims at building innovative knowledge infrastructure by conversion of comparative strength of India by virtue of its demography and inherited knowledge systems into competitive advantage. The main features of the INSPIRE are: